

**LAW STUDENT POSITION STATEMENT
PROPOSAL TO RE-DIRECT BOND PROCEEDS**

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 2/5/07
HB 5

As students attending the University of Montana School of Law, we are preparing for careers in a profession founded upon the principle of public service. This important value led us to the law and guides us each day during our studies. We are eager to do our part to ensure that this principle is passed on to the next generation of attorneys.

The proposal to utilize \$2.45 million in bonds, augmenting private fundraising and government support of the School of Law's building renovation, provides students with a great opportunity. We can ensure the law school continues to be an institution of higher education providing this region with well-qualified legal professionals. The renovation will provide greater access for disabled students, advancements in teaching the law, and continued ABA accreditation.

After an extensive communication process, including an all-student meeting, an open house with Dean Eck, and a week-long comment period on this official statement we accept the proposed \$130 fee increase. We do not take this fee lightly. Tuition costs are an ever-increasing burden for all students at the University of Montana. We recognize that this renovation will not be successful without the continued financial support of legal and university stakeholders. Any fee increase is difficult; however, this is not just any fee increase. This is our opportunity to provide future law students and all lawyers with a building that will house the heart of the legal profession in Montana.

The benefits of this new facility outweigh the costs for several reasons. Most important is the ability to provide needed access for disabled students and guests. The state of our current facility in this regard is embarrassing. If for no other reason, we accept this fee increase to ensure equal entry for all people.

Another benefit is expanding the law school's innovative curriculum. The University of Montana School of Law is regarded as a leader in providing a practical legal education. Unfortunately, the building's current condition, with only three main classrooms, prevents the school from further advancement.

The rigors of a legal education demand a functional, comfortable, and modern facility. Addressing these issues today ensures the continued accreditation of the University of Montana School of Law. To lose accreditation would be a great blow to all students, past, present, and future. The loss of accreditation would also negatively impact the citizens of Montana who depend upon our graduates to assist with legal issues.

A small personal sacrifice often leads to enormous community gain. That is why we support the proposal to utilize these bonds to revitalize the University of Montana School of Law.

September 13, 2006

Student Bar Association Executive Board

Approved by School of Law Student Body after one week comment period